

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4353

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINT, PINR, AR

SUBJECT: NAVY CHIEF EXPRESSES ANTI-LOPEZ REGA SENTIMENTS

1. DURING PRE-DINNER CONVERSATION JUNE 27 AT SPANISH EMBASSY WHERE HE WAS GUEST OF HONOR, ADMIRAL EMILIO MASSERA, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF ARGENTINE NAVY WAS COMMENTING ON CRISIS FACING GOVERNMENT OF MRS. PERON AND THE WAY VITAL INFORMATION IS WITHHELD FROM HER BY MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE JOSE LOPEZ REGA. MASSERA SAID THAT IN HIS INTERVIEWS WITH HER WHENEVER HE TRIED TO INJECT FACTUAL INFORMATION INTO HIS CONVERSATIONS, THE INTERVIEW WAS CUT SHORT BY LOPEZ REGA.

2. MASSERA SAID THAT LOPEZ REGA IS AN IGNORANT MAN WHO HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF ECONOMICS. HIS INFLUENCE IS LEADING ARGENTINA INTO THE DARKEST MOMENTS OF ITS HISTORY. HE SAID THAT LOPEZ REGA IS WELL AWARE OF OF WHAT MASSERA THINKS OF HIM AND MASSERA WAS, THEREFORE NOT REVEALING ANY SECRET SENTIMENTS.

3. AN ARGENTINA PARTICIPANT IN THE CONVERSATION SAID IN A JOCLAR VEIN THAT SINCE THE CIA IS BEING ACCUSED OF EVERYTHING, WE COULD PROBABLY FIND THAT IT IS BEHIND THE PROBLEMS THAT ARE BESETTING ARGENTINA AT THIS
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MOMENT. MASSERA ADDED THE WRY COMMENT THAT IF CIA WAS

IN THE ASSASSINATION BUSINESS HE HAD A PRIME CANDIDATE
FOR ELIMINATION.

4. HOURS LATER, AS ADMIRAL AND MRS. MASSERA WERE TAKING
LEAVE OF THE GUESTS HE SAID TO ME AS HIS PARTING
SHOT, "DON'T FORGET THE CIA AND MY CANDIDATE".

5. FROM THE UNGUARDED WAY IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED HIM-
SELF, MASSERA SHOWED HE HAS NO USE FOR LOPEZ REGA, IS
NOT AFRAID OF HIM AND HOPES THE MINISTER OF SOCIALL
WELFARE WILL SOON LEAVE THE SCENE, THE MORE PERMANENTLY,
THE BETTER. HE DID NOT SPEAK WITH THESAME
CONTEMPT O MRS. PERON BUT HE DOES SEE HER AS A
VICTIM OF LOPEZ REGA'S INFLUENCE FROM WHICH SHE CANNOT
OR DOES NOT WISH TO EXTRICATE HERSELF.
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